

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Monday, August 23, 2010**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, August 23, 2010** at the regular time of 7:17 o'clock p.m.

It was noted that there was a special ceremony of ground-breaking at the site of the existing Lincoln Community Center, symbolically acknowledging the retrofit and reconstruction of the Community Center, with actual construction work to begin in September or October. Members of the Town Council attended that event.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Dan Vassar, Brian Novak, and Mark A. Herak were present. Konnie Kuiper was absent owing to a business scheduling obligation. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Others present: Robin Carlascio, of the Idea Factory and Editor of the monthly newsletter was present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. The Town Council met with Michael Vanes, who had participated in organizing the Car Show on Highway Avenue as sponsored by the Select Centennial Commission. Mr. Vanes reported that he had received very positive feedback on the Centennial event. Mr. Vanes expressed his desire to organize another car show "cruise" before the end of the year. Mr. Vanes provided flyers that he had prepared in advance. He expressed his plan to close Highway Avenue between Fifth Street and Kennedy Avenue, on the date of September 19, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Vanes indicated he enjoyed the cooperation of Mr. Rodney Langel in coordinating conflicts with Fagen-Miller Funeral Home and any conflicts with Niko's Restaurant. The event would be styled as an End of Summer Car Cruise.

It was discussed that that the Town Council would need to authorize the closing and use of Highway Avenue as described and fixing any indemnity if needed.

2. The Town Council discussed the written request from the Highland Chamber of Commerce regarding restoring the "*Water Under the Ridge*" mural, at the Ridge Road Bridge. It was noted that a follow-up with the Public Works Director ensue to locate the parts of the mural.
3. The Town Council discussed the additional appropriations request for the Sanitation Department of the General Fund and the Solid Waste District Grant Fund. This request was placed by the Public Works Director. The former request was to allow spending authority to match the contract costs associated with the curbside solid waste collection contract. The latter was to fund the purchase of a street sweeping vehicle.
4. The Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer discussed the issue of the pay for overtime as recently presented by the Metropolitan Police Department for the bicycle patrol detail performed by the Patrol and CID Commanders. This matter was presented at the Town Council meeting of August 16, 2010 but removed from consideration owing to the issues presented here. The rate applied for was at 1.5 times the working commander's base rate plus longevity, rendering an hourly rate over \$44 per hour. The current wage and salary ordinance did not authorize this pay at that rate for bicycle patrols or details by exempt salaried staff, except when supported by a grant. The Town Council informally determined to amend the

appropriate ordinance and fix the amount at an existing rate used for special events, which is 1.5 times the base pay of a first class patrol officer's pay.

The Metropolitan Police Chief joined the meeting at this time (8:40 o'clock p.m.) The Metropolitan Chief advocated for the \$44 per hour rate for the patrol.

After the discussion, the informal determination of the Town Council was to authorize the \$44 per hour rate for the work that was performed by the commanders, but to not permit it hereafter.

It is noted that Councilor Vassar recused himself from discussing the previous matter owing to the apparent conflict as the matter involved his brother, who is patrol commander and Assistant Metropolitan Police Chief.

5. The Town Council and the Clerk-Treasurer revisited whether or not the assigned budget reductions, as communicated in the budget instruction and memorandum distributed to the several municipal departments, should be the basis of the advertised budget regardless of what was submitted by the several departments. It was noted that all departments filed according to the assigned budget number as directed in the approved budget instruction memorandum, except the Parks and Recreation Department and the Metropolitan Police Department. The Town Council discussed whether or not it would be useful to instead permit advertising at what was actually submitted. It was determined to stay with the originally approved goal of advertising the assigned target budget number, regardless of what was submitted.
6. The Town Council, the Town Clerk-Treasurer and the Metropolitan Police Chief discussed budgeting, the current fiscal climate, and the misperception that the fiscal constraints are as acute as represented and that they are not a bar to making raises. The discussion included an exploration of the use of the resources of the Special Public Safety Fund, believed to have approximately \$95,000 in cash on deposit to its credit, as a transitional buffer to ease to the enforced reduction in appropriations for the FY 2011 budget for the public safety departments.

The Metropolitan Police Chief departed at this time.

7. The Town Council and the Town Council President discussed the recent acquisition of two Light Emitting Diode (LED) street lights, provided without charge to the Town. It is hoped that the demonstration lights will be put in service to evaluate the prospect of lower energy costs.
8. The Town Council discussed the policy concept of establishing event permits from which fees may be charged and used to offset costs associated with added public safety or police presence. This would be for events in which fees are already charged.

There being no further business to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, August 23, 2010**, was adjourned 9:55 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer